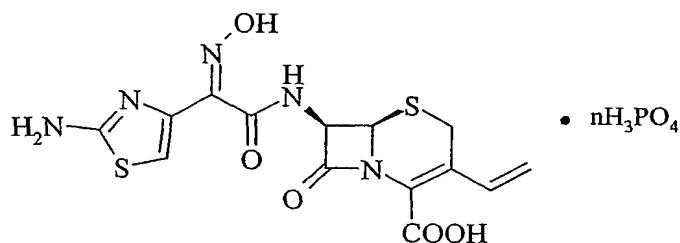


CLAIMS

1. Cefdinir salts of formula (I)



5

(I)

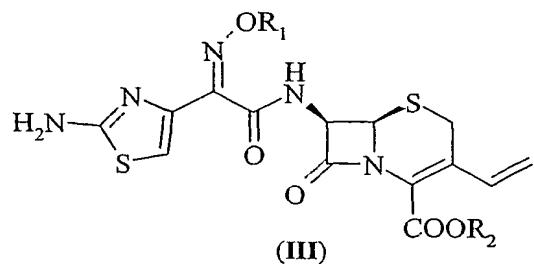
wherein n ranges from 1 to 3,

the hydrates and solvates thereof.

2. Cefdinir salt as claimed in claim 1 wherein n is 2.

3. Cefdinir salts according to claim 1 or 2 in the crystalline form.

10 4. A process for the preparation of salts of formula (I) comprising the treatment with phosphoric acid of a compound of formula (III)



wherein

15 R₁ is a benzhydryl, trityl or p-methoxybenzyl group, and

R₂ is benzhydryl, t-butyl or p-methoxybenzyl group.

5. A process as claimed in claim 4 characterized in that use is made of an organic solvent selected from: acetonitrile, propionitrile, ethyl acetate, butyl acetate, ethyl formate, methyl acetate, N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF),

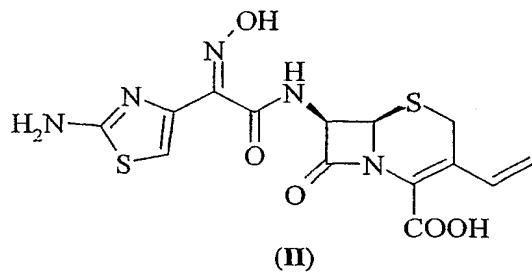
20 N,N-dimethylacetamide (DMA), N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP), acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, tetrahydrofuran (THF), dioxane, dimethylsulfoxide

(DMSO), sulfolane, formic acid, acetic acid, methylene chloride, methanol, ethanol and isopropanol.

6. A process as claimed in claim 5 characterized in that the solvent is acetonitrile.

5 7. A process according to any one of claims 4 - 6 characterized in that use is made of 1 to 20 equivalents of phosphoric acid.

8. A process for the preparation of cefdinir (II)



10 comprising the treatment of salts of formula (I) with an organic or inorganic base, in which the organic base is triethylamine and the inorganic base is selected from ammonia, sodium carbonate or bicarbonate, potassium hydroxide or sodium or potassium phosphate, followed by treatment of the resulting solution with conventional acids.

15 9. A process according to claim 8 wherein the salt of formula (I) is obtained by reacting crude cefdinir with phosphoric acid